

CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIG POVEY!

Written by Becky Harding, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
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Craig L. PoVey, program administrator for the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, has recently been elected as president of the National Prevention Network (NPN). PoVey, an M.S.W. and L.C.S.W., joined NPN in 2003 and was initially involved with the Research and Evaluation Committee. He went on to serve as co-chair of that committee and also as the Western Region Representative prior to his election as national president. In his new position, PoVey is bringing attention to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework, with a goal of making sure our communities have the capacity to apply and utilize effective prevention methods.

PoVey comes by his passion for substance abuse treatment and prevention naturally, as his father, Leon PoVey, spent 16 years—under three different governors—as the director of the State Department of Substance Abuse and as the deputy director of the Department of Human Services. A turning point in PoVey's career came as the result of one simple statement from his dad. Up to this point, PoVey had been working directly with adolescents at Weber Human Services until his father introduced him to the bigger picture. "You can make a difference person by person," his father said, "or you can make a difference community by community. It's your choice." Subsequently he went from working at the community level to the state level and now on a national level.

PoVey is married and the father of three sons. Though he recognizes that he won't always be

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working at this career, he will always be a community member; and he wants to do his part now to organize and strengthen our communities to ensure a healthy future for his sons and for all of us.